Group	Vacancies as on 31/3/07	Vacancies filled during 01.04.07 to 30.11.07
Gr-B (GOs)	87	14
Gr-B (NGOs)	1595	43

(b) Recruitment rules of Group B (Gazetted Officer and Group B Non-Gazetted Officers) have been revised vide notification dated 23.5.07, GSR No. 379 (E) to 385 (E) to facilitate filling the vacancies which are promotion posts.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Protection of jobs in traditional export industries

1630. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has evolved any mechanism to preserve and protect the jobs in traditional export industries such as handicrafts, textiles, etc. from the adverse impact of relentless rising of rupee and simultaneously continuing the promotion of Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) if so, the details of the mechanism that is proposed to be initiated and the number of exporters to be benefited and the export earnings that are to be accrued to the traditional industries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) To ensure that the job losses in these sectors are minimized, Government announced a set of measures aimed at providing relief to the exporters. These include reduction in the interest rate on pre shipment and post shipment credit, increase in drawback and DEPB rates, a select set of services for refund/exemption of service taxes, interest on certain EEFC balances and increasing the list of products under Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojna and also raising the revenue ceiling under the Scheme by Rs. 300 crores, accelerated reimbursement of terminal excise duty and central sales tax to exporters, provision of payment of interest for delays in re-imbursement of Terminal Excise Duty and Central Sales Tax. It is expected that these measures would, to some extent, neutralize the impact of rupee appreciation.

Manufacture of paints

1631. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has laid down any norms for manufacturing of paints and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the paints available in Indian markets contain high-level of lead-a metal that is known to adversely affect health in several ways; and

(c) measures taken to ensure availability of health friendly paints in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution has set standards for various kinds of paints. Manufactures are granted licences after checking each product sample and after the same confirms to the set standards. BIS have set 27 standards categorized as "A", "B" and "C" for Paints, Varnishes and Related Products. In the case of paints which are categorized as A, the limit for lead content is < 0.03% while for Category B, the limit for lead content is 0.03% to <0.1%. For Category C, the limit for lead content has been identified as >0.1% to <4.18%.

BIS has constituted Paints, Varnishes and Related Products Sectional Committee to review these 27 standards including the limits of lead content keeping in view the curent technology, market demand, commercial viability, ecological aspect, safety aspect & health concerns etc. BIS is in the process of preparing draft revisions on these 27 standards and would be circulating to all stakeholders for obtaining comments before its finalization.

Patent filings in India

1632. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of patent filings by residents per million population in 2004-05 and comparative figure with world average;

(b) the number of patents in force in 2004 in India, world average and in China;

(c) whether the Government is aware that India accounts for only one out of 800 patents in the world; and

(d) if so, what are the efforts taken to strengthen the process that help creation of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in India that provides the critical supports for the overall innovation culture, and newer and superior products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The total number of patent filings by residents in India per million population was 3.40 in 2004-05 as compared to the world average of 250.72 worked out on the basis of the world population (6377.6 million) as per data given in the *State of World Population 2004; United Nations Population Fund Report* and the number of patents filed worldwide during 2004 (15,99,000) as per data given in *World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Patent Report: Statistics on Worldwide Patent Activity, 2006 Edition.*

(b) The number of patents in force in India in 2004 was 6,406, while it was 1,82,385 in China. The world average of patents in force in 2004 was 846.71 worked out on the basis of the world population (6377.6 million) as per data given in the *State of World Population 2004: United Nations Population Fund Report* and the number of patents in force worldwide during 2004 (5.4 million) as per data given in *World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Patent Report: Statistics on Worldwide Patent Activity, 2006 Edition.*